WE CLAIM:

1   1.   A method including:

2   (a) determining at least one class, class hierarchy, classification

3 scheme, category or category scheme;

4   (b) assigning cases, persons, and/or things to said determined

5 class, class hierarchy, classification scheme, category or category

6 scheme; and

7   (c) selecting and/or matching cases, persons, and/or things

8 based at least in part on said class, class hierarchy, classification

9 scheme, category or category scheme and/or said assignment,

10   wherein at least one of said steps (a)-(c) includes the step of

11 using at least some rights management information.

1   2.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2 using at least one control set.

1   3.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2 using at least some information for controlling use of digital

3 information.

1   4.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2 using at least some information for controlling at least one

3 transaction.

1   5.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2 using at least some information for controlling at least one event.

1   6.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2   using at least some information for controlling at least one

3   consequence of digital information use.

1   7.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2   using at least some information for controlling at least one

3   consequence of at least one event.

1   8.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2   the step of using at least some information for controlling at least one

3   consequence of at least one transaction.

1   9.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2   using at least some information outputted by a rights management

3   process.

1   10.   A method as in claim 1 further including the step of

2   outputting at least some rights management information.

1   11.   A method as in claim 1 wherein at least one of steps (a)-

2   (c) includes using at least one secure container.

1   12.   A method as in claim 1 wherein at least one of steps (a)-

2   (c) includes using at least one protected processing environment.

1   13.   A method as in claim 1 further including the step of

2   using at least one of the techniques set forth at pages 60-82 of this

3   specification.

1   14.   A method as in claim 1 wherein said using step includes

2   using at least one or more rules and/or their consequences.

1   15.   A method as in claim 1 wherein at least one of steps (a)

2   and (b) includes at least one of the following steps:

3   (a) using at least one statistical technique identifying at least

4   one cluster of cases sharing similar profiles and/or features;

5   (b) using numerical taxonomy;

6   (c) using at least one of cluster analysis, factor analysis,

7   components analysis, and other similar data reduction/classification

8   technique;

9   (d) using at least one pattern classification technique,

10   including components analysis and neural approaches;

11   (e) using at least one statistical technique that identifies at least

12   one underlying dimension of qualities, traits, features, and/or

13   characteristics, and assigning parameter data indicating the extent to

14   which a given case has, possesses, and/or may be characterized by the

15   underlying dimension, factor, class, and/or result in the definition of

16   at least one class and/or the assignment of at least one case to at least

17   one class;

18   (f) using at least one statistical method employing fuzzy logic

19   and/or fuzzy measurement and/or whose assignment to at least one

20   class entails probabilities different from 1 or zero;

21   (g) using a Baysian statistical classification techniques that

22   uses an estimate of prior probabilities in determining class definitions

23   and/or the assignment of at least one case to at least one class;

24   (h) using at least one statistical and/or graphical classification

25 and/or data reduction method that uses rotation of reference axes,

26 regardless of whether orthogonal or oblique rotations are used;

27   (i) using at least one statistical method for two and three way

28 multidimensional scaling; and

29   (j) using at least one knowledge based approach to

30 classification.

1   16.   A system including:

2   an automatic class generator that generates at least one class,

3 class hierarchy, classification scheme, category or category scheme;

4   an automatic class assigner that assigns cases, persons and/or

5 things to said determined class, class hierarchy, classification scheme,

6 category or category scheme; and

7   at least one further component for automatically searching,

8 selecting and/or matching cases, persons, and/or things based at least

9 in part on said class, class hierarchy, classification scheme, category

10 or category scheme and/or said assignment,

11   wherein said system uses at least some rights management

12 information.

1   17.   A system including:

2   first means for determining at least one class, class hierarchy,

3 classification scheme, category or category scheme;

4   second means for assigning cases, persons, and/or things to

5 said determined class, class hierarchy, classification scheme, category

6 or category scheme; and

7   third means for selecting and/or matching cases, persons,

8 and/or things based at least in part on said class, class hierarchy,

9 classification scheme, category or category scheme and/or said

10 assignment,

11   wherein at least one of said first, second and third means uses

12 at least some rights management information.

1   18.   A Commerce Utility System providing a secure

2 execution space, the Commerce Utility System performing at least

3 one component based service function including at least one secure

4 component for execution within the secure execution space, the

5 Commerce Utility System including a communications facility

6 permitting communication of secure control information with at least

7 one electronic community participant,

8   wherein said component based service function uses at least

9 one class based at least in part on rights management information.

1   19.   A Commerce Utility System as in claim 18 wherein the

2 component based service function assigns at least one member to at

3   least one class based at least in part on some rights management

4   information.

1   20.   A Commerce Utility System as in claim 18 wherein the

2   component based service function matches persons and/or things

3   based at least in part on at least some rights management information.

1   21.   A Commerce Utility System as in claim 18 wherein the

2   component based service function selects persons and/or things based

3   at least in part on at least some rights management information.

1   22.   A Commerce Utility System as in claim 18 wherein the

2   component based service function narrowcasts information to

3   recipients based at least in part on at least some rights management

4   information.

1   23.   A system or method including:

2   a computer network and

3   a control arrangement within the network that determines

4   and/or uses at least one of the following through use of rights

5   management information:

6   (a) class hierarchy,

7   (b) class structure,

8   (c) classification scheme,

9   (d) category, and

10   (e) category scheme.

1   24.   A class-based system including at least one computer

2   that processes digital information, said system including at least one

3   element that uses at least some rights management information.

1   25.   A method of operating a class-based system including at

2   least one computer that processes digital information, said method

3   including the step of using at least some rights management

4   information.

1   26.   A system for assigning at least one thing or person to at

2   least one class including at least one computer that processes digital

3   information, said system including at least one element that uses at

4   least some rights management data in making said assignment.

1   27.   A system for making and/or using at least one class-

2   based assignment including at least one computer that processes

3   digital information, said system including at least one element that

4   uses at least some rights management information.

1   28.   A system for clearing at least one transaction including at

2   least one computer that processes digital information, said system

3   including at least one element that uses at least one class defined,

4   assigned, selected, and/or matched based at least in part on rights

5   management information.

1   29.   A method for authorizing at least one computer and/or

2   computer user including the step of using at least one class defined,

3   assigned, selected, and/or matched based at least in part on rights

4   management information.

1   30.   A method for authorizing at least one electronic

2   transaction including the step of using at least one class defined,

3   assigned, selected, and/or matched based at least in part on rights

4   management information.

1   31.   A method for initiating and/or performing at least one at

2   least in part secure electronic transaction including the step of using

3   class related information defined, assigned, selected, and/or matched

4   based at least in part on rights management information.

1   32.   An information processing method including the steps

2   of:

3   securely charging a fee; and

4   conditioning said charging step at least in part on at least one

5   class defined, assigned, selected, and/or matched based at least in part

6   on rights management information.

1   33.   A method for securely exchanging digital information

2   including the step of at least in part defining, assigning, selecting,

3   and/or matching at least one class based at least in part on rights

4   management information.

1   34.   A method for performing at least one rights operating

2   system based transaction including the step of defining, assigning,

3   selecting, and/or matching at least one class based at least in part on

4   rights management information.

1   35.   A method for performing at least one protected

2   processing environment operation including the step of defining,

3   assigning, selecting, and/or matching at least one class based at least

4   in part on rights management information.

1   36.   A method of pushing information including the steps of

2   classifying recipients and/or information to be sent to said recipients

3   based at least in part on rights management information, and selecting

4   said information to distribute to said recipients based at least in part

5   on said classifying.

1   37.   A method of pushing information including the steps of

2   classifying recipients and/or information to be sent to said recipients

3   based at least in part on rights management information, and

4   matching at least a portion of said information with at least one class

5   of said recipients based at least in part on said classifying.

1   38.   A method of pushing information as in claim 37 further

2   including the step of creating a classification scheme and/or hierarchy

3   using at least some rights information.

1   39.   A method of pushing information as in claim 37 further

2   including the step of assigning at least some information and/or at

3   least one recipient to a class or category, said assignment based at

4   least in part on rights management information.

1   40.   A subject switch for matching subscribers and/or

2 recipients desiring information in one or more classes with one or

3 more sources of information, wherein the subject switch matches at

4 least one subscriber and/or participant with at least one information

5 source on a mapping based at least in part on rights management

6 information.

1   41.   A subject switch as in claim 40 wherein said information

2 source:

3   selects at least some information, said selection based on at

4 least one class, and wherein said assignment of said at least some

5 information to said at least one class is based at least in part on rights

6 management information; and

7   sends at least some said selected information to said subscriber

8 in accordance with said subscriber's subscribing to said class of

9 information.

1   42.   A subject switch as in claim 40 wherein at least one of

2 said subject switch, said subscriber and/or participant and said

3 information source includes at least one computer providing a

4 protected processing environment.

1   43.   A subject switch as in claim 40 wherein at least one

2 subscriber and/or participant uses rights management information at

3 least in part to persistently subscribe to at least some information

4 provided by at least one information source.

1   44.   A subject switch as in claim 40 wherein the subject

2   switch includes means for using at least one class definition for said

3   mapping.

1   45.   A subject switch as in claim 40 wherein the subject

2   switch includes means for responding to a subscriber and/or

3   participant request by providing information indicating information

4   sources in at least one specified or desired class.

1   46.   A subject switch as in claim 40 further including a

2   messaging service for use by at least two of said subject switch, said

3   subscriber and/or participant and said information source and/or

4   participant to communicate electronically.

1   47.   A subject switch as in claim 46 wherein said electronic

2   communications uses at least one secure container.

1   48.   A subject switch as in claim 40 wherein at least one of

2   said subject switch, subscriber, or information source uses at least one

3   control set associated with at least some information received by at

4   least one subscriber.

1   49.   A digital narrowcasting arrangement comprising:

2   a computer; and

3   at least one classifying element used to select content to

4   narrowcast to recipients based at least in part on rights management

5   information.

1   50.   A digital narrowcasting arrangement as in claim 49

2   wherein the classifying element classifies at least one of (a) a

3   recipient, and (b) content, based at least in part on rights management

4   information.

1   51.   A digital narrowcasting arrangement as in claim 49

2   wherein said classifying element defines at least one class using at

3   least some rights management information.

1   52.   A digital narrowcasting arrangement as in claim 49

2   wherein the classifying element assigns at least some content to at

3   least one class, said assignment based on at least some rights

4   management information.

1   53.   A digital narrowcasting arrangement as in claim 49

2   wherein the classifying element defines at least one class based at

3   least in part on content selections previously made by the recipients

4   and/or profiles generated based at least in part on recipient input.

1   54.   A digital narrowcasting arrangement as in claim 49

2   wherein the classifying element sends a content request including

3   classification data and destination information to at least one

4   provider.

1   55.   An information distribution system including: a

2   computer network; and a selection arrangement that selects

3   information for use by individual recipients using classes based at

4   least in part on rights management information.

1   56.   An information distribution system as in claim 55

2 wherein the system further includes a classifying element that

3 determines at least one class of content and/or service of interest to at

4 least one recipient.

1   57.   An information distribution system as in claim 56

2 wherein said classifying element defines at least one class using at

3 least some rights management information.

1   58.   An information distribution system as in claim 56

2 wherein said classifying element assigns at least some content to at

3 least one class, said assignment based on at least some rights

4 management information.

1   59.   An information distribution system as in claim 55

2 wherein the system includes means for allowing the user to choose to

3 receive the selected information.

1   60.   An enterprise information system including a computer

2 system for classifying employees, said system including at least one

3 rights management component that distributes information to the

4 employees based at least in part on employee classification.

1   61.   An enterprise information system as in claim 60 wherein

2 the computer matches the information to employees based at least in

3 part on the employee classification.

1   62.   An enterprise information system as in claim 60 wherein

2   the employee classification is used to gather information for

3   employees without revealing substantial information concerning

4   individual employees.

1   63.   A method for conducting a chain of handling and/or

2   control including the steps of allowing plural parties to contribute

3   rules and/or consequences, and performing at least one classification

4   based at least in part on said rules and/or consequences.

1   64.   A method as in claim 63 wherein at least some of said

2   contributed rules and/or consequences are class based.

1   65.   A method as in claim 63 wherein at least one of said

2   parties modifies at least one of said rules and/or consequences based

3   at least in part on class.

1   66.   A method as in claim 63 including the step of generating

2   class assignments based at least in part on said rules and/or

3   consequences, and sending said class assignments to at least one

4   clearinghouse.

1   67.   A method as in claim 63 including the step of classifying

2   said rules and/or consequences to provide at least one class, and

3   fulfilling at least one request by selecting based on said class.

1   68.   A directory services system for classifying confidential

2   information, the system including:

3   a communications component that receives directory requests;

4   and

5   a response component that uses said classification to respond to

6   directory requests while preserving confidentiality of said

7   confidential information.

1   69.   A directory services system as in claim 68 wherein said

2   response component uses at least one classification process to classify

3   items in a directory, and uses results of the classification process, at

4   least in part, to respond to directory requests.

1   70.   A directory services system as in claim 68 wherein said

2   response component sends information to destinations revealed by the

3   results of the classification process without revealing at least some

4   information concerning said destinations to the information source.

1   71.   A microsegmented merchandising technique including

2   the steps of performing classification based at least in part on usage

3   data and/or lifestyle profiles, and distributing offers for products

4   and/or services based at least in part on the classification.

1   72.   A microsegmented merchandising technique as in claim

2   71 wherein the performing step includes defining at least one class

3   hierarchy based at least in part on rights management information.

1   73.   A microsegmented merchandising technique as in claim

2   71 further including the step of combining plural offers for different

3   products and/or services based at least in part on said classification.

1   74.   A trading network including:

2   a communications element for communicating digital signals;

3   and

4   means for matching value chain participants through a

5   classification based at least in part on rights management

6   information.

1   75.   A trading network as in claim 74 further including means

2   for defining at least one class hierarchy based at least in part on rights

3   management information.

1   76.   A trading network as in claim 74 further including means

2   for determining class membership based at least in part on action

3   and/or information provided by at least one value chain participant.

1   77.   A trading network as in claim 74 wherein said matching

2   means includes means for at least in part performing at least one

3   electronic negotiation.

1   78.   A securities trading method including the step of

2   performing a classification process at least in part using at least one

3   rights management element, and using the classification process to

4   select securities for trade.

1   79.   A securities trading method as in claim 78 wherein said

2   classification process includes defining at least one class hierarchy

3   based at least in part on rights management information.

1   80.   A currency/debt trading system including:

2   a currency or debt trading computer; and

3   an arrangement coupled to said computer that performs at least

4 one classification process based at least in part on rights management

5 information.

1   81.   A currency/debt trading system as in claim 80 wherein

2 said arrangement includes means for defining at least one class

3 hierarchy based at least in part on rights management information.

1   82.   A currency/debt trading system as in claim 80 wherein

2 the arrangement uses classification to maximize return or minimize

3 loss.

1   83.   A financial institution selection system including a

2 computer that classifies financial institutions based at least in part on

3 rights management information.

1   84.   A software distribution method including the steps of

2 generating class information based at least in part on rights

3 management information, and selecting software to be distributed

4 and/or recipients who are to receive distributed software based at least

5 in part on class information.

1   85.   A software distribution method as in claim 84 wherein

2 said generating step includes defining a class hierarchy using at least

3 some rights management information.

1   86.   A software distribution method as in claim 84 wherein

2 the selecting step includes selecting software to be distributed by

3 classifying the software based at least in part on rights management

4 information associated with the software.

1   87.   A software distribution mehtod as in claim 80 wherein

2 the selecting step includes selecting recipients to receive software

3 based at least in part on usage information provided by a rights

4 management process.

1   88.   A classification technique including the step of

2 authenticating class membership based at least in part on digital

3 credentials and/or certificates.

1   89.   A classification technique as in claim 88 wherein said

2 digital credentials are digital certificates.

1   90.   A classification technique as in claim 88 wherein said

2 digital credentials are digital membership cards.

1   91.   A classification technique as in claim 88 further

2 including the step of deciding class membership based at least in part

3 on rights management information.

1   92.   A classification technique as in claim 88 further

2 including the step of classifying at least one of users, nodes, devices,

3 networks, servers, clients and services based at least in part on rights

4 management information.

1   93.   A classification technique as in claim 88 further

2 including the step of conditioning at least one rights management

3 process at least in part on authenticated class membership.

1   94.   A computer system including:

2   a first arrangement that generates class-based controls to

3 participants based at least in part on class and/or class-based

4 assignments; and

5   a second arrangement that allows participants to interact with

6 information and/or one another at least in part using said class-based

7 controls.

1   95.   A computer system as in claim 94 further including

2 means for using said class-based controls to limit participants' access

3 to information and/or services based on participants' classes.

1   96.   A health care computer system including an arrangement

2 for issuing health care workers, administrators and insurers class-

3 based digital credentials and/or certificates, wherein the digital

4 information sent to said health care workers and administrators

5 includes class-based controls that condition use and/or access to

6 information based at least in part on said class-based digital

7 credentials and/or certificates.

1   97.   A health care computer system as in claim 96 further

2 including means for allowing said health care workers, administrators

3 and insurers sharing a common object subject to class-based controls

4   to have access to different portions of the object based at least in part

5   on said class-based controls.

1   98.   A work process automation system including a matching

2   and/or classification computer that matches tasks to resources based

3   at least in part on assigning classifying the tasks and/or the resources

4   to at least one class.

1   99.   A work process automation system as in claim 98

2   wherein said matching and/or classification computer includes means

3   for defining at least one class hierarchy based at least in part on rights

4   management information.

1   100.   A work process automation system as in claim 98

2   wherein said matching and/or classification computer includes means

3   for matching based at least in part on rights management information.

1   101.   An automatic governmental and/or societal rights

2   supporting system including a matching and/or classification

3   computing element that assigns and/or classifies entities to at least

4   one class based at least in part on rights management information.

1   102.   An automatic governmental and/or societal rights

2   supporting system as in claim 101 wherein the matching and/or

3   classification computing element includes means for defining a class

4   hierarchy based at least in part on rights management information.

1   103.   An automatic governmental and/or societal rights

2   supporting system as in claim 101 wherein the matching and/or

3   classification computing element includes means for classifying

4   entities based on at least one of the following:

5   tax status;

6   right to receive certain information;

7   right to engage in certain transactions; and

8   jurisdiction.

1   104.   An automatic taxing authority computer including

2   means for issuing tax class control sets based at least in part on tax-

3   based class definitions, and means for using said tax control sets at

4   least in part to collect and/or enforce taxation.

1   105.   A method for adaptively presenting information

2   differently to different participants, including associating said

3   participants with classes, and controlling presentation based at least in

4   part on class-based control sets included within the information.

1   106.   A method as in claim 105 further including using said

2   class-based control sets to match participants with different portions

3   of said information.

1   107.   A method as in claim 105 further including using said

2   class-based control sets to change the form in which information is

3   presented based at least in part on said classes.

1   108.   A method as in claim 105 further including the step of

2   operating said class-based control sets based at least in part on

3   metadata associated with different portions of said information.

1   109.   A method as in claim 105 further including selecting

2   said class-based control sets between different images for

3   presentation based at least in part on one or more classes associated

4   with a participant.

1   110.   A method as in claim 105 further including using said

2   class-based control sets to emphasize certain portions of said

3   information over other portions in said presentation based at least in

4   part on one or more classes associated with a participant.

1   111.   A method as in claim 105 further including using at

2   least one computer having a protected processing environment.

1   112.   A method for adaptively presenting information

2   differently to different participants including:

3   classifying the different participants based on capability; and

4   using class-based control sets associated with said information

5   to change the difficulty of the presentation based at least in part on

6   said classification.

1   113.   A method as in claim 112 wherein the different

2   recipients are classified based on grade level.

1   114.   A method as in claim 112 including the step of

2 changing the vocabulary and/or syntactical complexity of the

3 presentation based at least in part on said classification.

1   115.   A method as in claim 112 further including the step of

2 using said class-based control sets to ensure that in at least some

3 cases, recipients in different classes pay different levels of

4 compensation for said presentation.

1   116.   A method for adaptively presenting information

2 differently to different participants including:

3   classifying different participants based on capability, and

4   using class-based control sets associated with said information

5 to change the language of the presentation based at least in part on

6 said classification.

1   117.   An information searching mechanism including a

2 matching computer element that classifies information based at least

3 in part on rights management information, said computing element

4 including means responsive to user requests to search for information

5 based at least in part on said classification.

1   118.   An information searching mechanism as in claim 117

2 wherein said matching computer element further includes means for

3 assigning information to classes based at least in part on rights

4 management information.

1   119.   An information searching mechanism as in claim 117

2 wherein said matching computer element includes means for scoring

3 information based at least in part on user indicated parameters.

1   120.   An information searching mechanism as in claim 117

2 wherein said matching computer element includes means for

3 responding to at least some user requests by providing Universal

4 Resource Locator designations of where information can be found.

1   121.   An information handling method including the step of

2 using class-based controls to control support extraction and/or

3 aggregation of information.

1   122.   An information handling method as in claim 121 further

2 including using a computing element to extract information from

3 plural objects based at least in part on class-based criteria.

1   123.   An information handling method as in claim 121 further

2 including using a computing element to aggregate information based

3 at least in part on class-based criteria.

1   124.   An information handling method as in claim 121 further

2 including using said class-based controls to represent nested or multi-

3 level classifications.

1   125.   An information classification method including the step

2 of generating at least one class hierarchy from other plural

3 classification hierarchies based at least in part on rights management

4   information and/or class-based rights management information based

5   at least in part on classification metadata.

1   126.   An information classification method as in claim 125

2   further including basing said other plural classification hierarchies at

3   least in part on object metadata.

1   127.   An information classification method as in claim 125

2   further including specifying said classification object metadata

3   specified classifications based on at least one of location, name,

4   prices, permissions, ISSN, title, author, publisher and/or date.

1   128.   An information classification method as in claim 125

2   further including generating said class-based rights management

3   information by classifying classes.

1   129.   An electronic gambling system including a computer

2   that matches gamblers with plural gambling providers based at least

3   in part through classifying the gambling providers using rights

4   management information.

1   130.   An electronic gambling system as in claim 129 wherein

2   the computer includes means for classifying the gamblers based at

3   least in part on rights management information.

1   131.   An electronic gambling system as in claim 129 wherein

2   the computer includes at least one protected processing environment.

1   132.   An electronic gambling system as in claim 129 wherein

2   the computer uses at least one control set to classify, select and/or

3   match at least one of said gambling providers, and/or gamblers.

1   .   133.   An electronic ticketing system including a computer

2   that matches recipients with tickets to events through classifying said

3   recipients, said system including a computer that matches tickets

4   and/or said events based at least in part on rights management

5   information.

1   134.   An electronic ticketing system as in claim 133 wherein

2   a recipient provides a request containing event and rights

3   management criteria, and the computer matches the recipient with a

4   provider based at least in part on said classifying process.

1   135.   An electronic ticketing system as in claim 133 wherein

2   the rights management information includes method of payment

3   information.